THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Non-Punctuality of evening flights of Indian Airlines

1506. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines monitor the punctuality of its flights on a daily basis;

(b) whether it is a fact that evening flights from Delhi to Hyderabad have never maintained punctuality in 1995-96 and during the period upto June, 1996;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the chronic delays of this particular flight;

(d) whether Government would ensure that constant and chronic delays are not harming the reputation of Indian Airlines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) No, Sir. During the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 (Upto June, 1996) over 75% and 68% respectively of the evening flights from Delhi to Hyderabad left on time. The remaining flights were delayed/cancelled due to adverse weather airport restrictions, technical snags etc.

Profits of ITDC

1507. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC during 1995-96 has achieved highest profit;

(b) if so, whether tourist traffic increased during the said period;

(c) if so, to what extent;

(d) whether ITDC conveyed to Government that shortage of hotel rooms affected increase in trousim;

(e) if so, whether any concrete steps were taken to provide hotel rooms to the foreign tourists; and

(f) what were the other facilities provided to the tourist?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) Yes, Sir. During 1995-96, ITDC has earned profit (before tax) of Rs. 65.19 crores (Provisional).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The tourist arrivals in the country during 1995-96 were 2.19 million and registered a growth of 14.8 per cent over the previous year.

(d) to (f) There are shortages of hotel rooms in the metro-politan cities particularly in the peak season. A large number of high quality hotels are being added every year to cater to the needs of increasing number of tourists. These hotels are coming up mainly in the private sector and the Government is providing the necessary support facilities and incentives.

The other facilities being provided to the tourists include the setting up of restaurant, wayside amenities, recreation facilities, tourist reception and information services and public conveniences, by the State/UT Governments, with Central Govt. assistance.

Replacement of Eye-Ratina by Dr. R.P. Centre for Opthalmic Sciences (AIIMS)

1508. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. R.P. Centre for Opthalimic Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi had called the "Top Priority List" children for replacement of eye-ratina in the month of December, 1995;